

be printed. The gentleman from Prince George's desired the indictment. He had no objection, for his own part, to the printing of the whole document, if necessary to place the action of the Executive of Maryland properly before the people. He would not object to the reconsideration, however, if the Convention thought proper.

Mr. BOWIE said that the fact was simply this: a requisition had been made by the Governor of Pennsylvania, upon the Governor of Maryland for a Mr. Mitchell. This demand had been refused, and a correspondence had ensued between the two Executives. It was exceedingly desirable that the people of the State of Maryland should know the grounds taken by those two States in reference to this subject. The Convention was just as well prepared to act upon the question of printing that correspondence, as any committee could be. If referred to a committee, it might be delayed, if reported at all, until a time when the Convention would be ill prepared for it, being engaged in the discussion of other and important questions. The reference to a committee be considered a mere idle waste of time.

Mr. BLAKISTON said that, in his opinion, it would be the bounden duty of the Convention, if they approved the course of Governor Lowe, not only to have this communication published, but to endorse the action of the Executive by a solemn and unanimous vote. For that reason, it would be important that it should be referred to a committee in order that the action of the Executive might be sustained by a proper resolution, passed by the Delegates of the whole body of the people of the State of Maryland. The documents should then be published to enable the people of Maryland to understand the action of the Executive and to endorse it.

Mr. RANDALL regretted to differ so much from those whose opinions he highly esteemed. He considered, as the sole object of this Convention was the formation of a Constitution for the State, that the introduction of the resolution of the gentleman from Calvert had regard to that object alone. He therefore was clearly in favor of the reference of the information obtained under that resolution to a committee, as suggested by the gentleman from St. Mary's. But he did not think it was the duty of this Convention to circulate information of this description, however interesting and desirable, among the people. We had enough to do to attend to the business properly submitted to us.

Mr. SPENCER remarked that the gentleman from Calvert had disavowed any such purpose. He had said that communications had passed between the Executive of Pennsylvania and the Executive of Maryland, which could have no relevancy at all to the action of this Convention; but he desired that the information should be laid before the Convention for their information; and probably with a view that the action of the Executive might be sustained and enforced by the weight and character of the Convention, by the passage of a resolution.

Mr. Bowie suggested that it was the same motive which had actuated the members of the

Convention in passing a resolution unanimously in reference to the compromise. That had nothing to do with the framing of the Constitution; but it was a question all-important and vital to the interests of the State. This was a question of great importance, and also entitled to attention by the Convention. The state of the case ought to be known.

Mr. RANDALL resumed, and said he had been entirely misunderstood if it was supposed that he wished to suppress any information. He was glad the information had been laid before them, and trusted that it would be solemnly and carefully examined by a committee of the house. He desired that committee to examine it with a view to see whether or not it was necessary to engraft in the Constitution any provision to apply to such a state of things—a provision prohibiting the delivery up of a citizen of this State charged with such an imaginary offence against the unconstitutional laws of other States. In this view alone would he vote for the reference to a committee. The executive of Maryland was very well able to take care of his department, and so was the Attorney General, by the publication of this correspondence. If the people of Maryland desired the correspondence to be published, it could be very readily done by the newspapers; but this Convention, he would respectfully submit, was not the proper organ for the publication of such information. If it was to be printed for the purpose of circulation, the Executive had the power to do it; or it might be published in the papers, as it would be, if of sufficient interest to be sought for—and from what he heard it was both interesting and important to the people. But all that the Convention had to do with it was to examine whether there was a sufficient reason shown by this correspondence for the introduction of any provision in the organic law of the State, requiring that to be done by the Executive of this State which he had in this case, from his own proper sense of duty, voluntarily done.

Mr. BOWIE withdrew the motion to reconsider, and said that he trusted that the committee would report to-morrow morning a resolution upon the subject, affirming the course of the Executive of the State.

Mr. MORGAN said that he could not permit this matter to go to the committee without saying something in reply to what had fallen from his friend from Anne Arundel, (Mr. Randall.) For one, he could not consent to remain silent, and have it said here that the people of Maryland had no interest in a question like this.

Mr. RANDALL. My friend has misunderstood me; I did not say that.

Mr. MORGAN did not desire to misrepresent his friend, but certainly he had argued that it did not come within the proper duties of this Convention, and therefore, that the whole subject should be turned over to the Legislature. What, then, was this question about which we, representing the sovereign people of Maryland, should not at this time speak? A citizen of Maryland had, by means of two agents, succeeded in reclaiming a fugitive slave from the State of Pennsylvania, his undoubted property, and that citizen is now de-